

# THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center  
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*Hon. Robert Andrews Chapman and Frances Carter Chapman, photo from Maine: A History (1919)*

## **Bethel's Robert A. Chapman and Frances C. Chapman**

Hon. Robert Andrews Chapman, the second owner of the Bethel Historical Society's O'Neil Robinson House and the grandson of Rev. Eliphaz Chapman, who suggested the name "Bethel" when the town was incorporated in 1796, was born 22 September 1807 in Gilead, the eldest son of Eliphaz, Jr. and Salome Burnham Chapman. As a child, he attended Gilead schools and later Bridgton Academy, taught a few winters in district schools before becoming a clerk in the store of O'Neil W. Robinson at Bethel Hill. The store was believed to have occupied the site of or near the location of the present Bethel Library. It was destroyed by fire in September 1864. Chapman was employed by Robinson until

1836 when he purchased the property and operated the store with his brother Elbridge, who later moved to Portland in the 1850s, where he died in 1868. After his brother's departure to Portland, Robert Chapman admitted as partner, Enoch W. Woodbury. From his store and other business ventures, Robert Chapman became the wealthiest citizen of Bethel. A staunch Jacksonian Democrat, he later became a temperance advocate and spoke on that issue throughout the State. He never permitted liquor of any kind to be sold in his store. In 1850, he was elected to the State Senate and re-elected the following year. Here according to his obituary in the *Oxford Democrat* for 13 April 1880, he "distinguished himself for his usefulness and ability in matters of legislation." From his work in temperance, he later became a Republican. As an avid Congregationalist devoted to his home and family, he was long active in that denomination and was also very public spirited. He married Frances Carter, daughter of Dr. Timothy and Fanny Freeland Carter on 28 March 1833 and they were

the parents of six children. Born 1 September 1809, she lived to be ninety-two.

In his *History of Bethel*, Dr. William B. Lapham recalls Chapman as "one of the most industrious of men." He continued, "When I was attending school in Bethel, I was in the habit of occasionally rising going to Paradise Hill to have a view of the gorgeous sunrise seen from that point, and I never passed Mr. Chapman's place in the early morning twilight, without seeing him about his chores, milking his cows, and feeding his horses, or at work in his garden, and getting ready for the day's employment in the store. He was correct in his habits, strictly temperate, a liberal supporter of, and a constant attendant at the Congregational Church. Mr. Chapman was not a politician in the modern sense of the word. He never felt that he could afford the time to hold office, his own private business being sufficient to absorb all his time. In the time of the old parties, his sympathies were with the Democrats, and as such he was elected to the State Senate in 1850, and re-elected the following year. When the third party in Oxford County was organized in the interest of prohibition of the liquor traffic, Mr. Chapman joined the movement, and he followed, when that faction became absorbed in the great Republican party in 1855. Mr. Chapman was tall and erect, but slender, lithe and active in all his movements—a marked face and figure which impressed one at once as belonging to no ordinary man. His penetration and sagacity, coupled with his activity and perseverance, would have assured success in any profession or business he might have chosen, but he chose mercantile pursuits, and in his success outstripped all his predecessors and contemporaries. Probably Bethel never had a clearer-headed businessman than Robert A. Chapman." As the town's most prosperous resident, he was, according to his *Oxford Democrat* obituary, considered the "model of industry, integrity, and good citizenship." He built so many buildings in the town, it was said of him that "the village of Bethel grew up with him." He died in Bethel 7 April 1880 and is buried Portland's Evergreen Cemetery. ■

## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Celebrates 40 Years

Approximately fifty members and friends attended the Society's 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting held at the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room on September 14. The meeting was preceded by a bountiful pot luck dinner of roast chicken breasts, salads, casseroles, corn bread and a wide variety of desserts.

President Allen Cressy called the meeting to order following the dinner. He announced that the report of the 2005 annual meeting was published in the Society's quarterly and that the 2005 financial report would be available later in the year and would also appear with a future issue of *The Courier*.

A moment of silence was observed for all the members who had died since the last annual meeting. Those so remembered were Charlene Haines, Richard Carter, Howard Cole, Robert Mills, Daisy LeClair, Willard Wight, Judy Haskell, Earlon Keniston, Margaret Carter Bean, Elizabeth Mason Carter, George Gamble, Ruth Gilbert, Pauline Wieden, Jay Woolsey, and Eldon Greenleaf.

The president then reviewed some of the highlights since the last annual meeting. These included over 85 gifts of artifacts for the collections since the last annual meeting, a gain of 82 new members, the establishment of a high school intern program with Mo Doyle as the first intern, the presence of a summer intern from the New England and American

(continued on page 3)

## President's Column

At our Annual Meeting on September 14 (see article lower on this page), I was pleased that the new bylaws were adopted by an overwhelming vote. I am confident that this new document will serve the Society well in the governance of our organization. I would also like to congratulate the six new honorary members (see pages 3 & 7) and Colwyn Haskell who accepted the Noll Volunteer Service Award on behalf of his late wife Judy and for his own service to the organization. To retiring trustee Dorothy Bartlett and treasurer Grace McKivergan much appreciation is extended for their dedicated service to the Society. A warm welcome is also due Sylvia Clanton and Bruce Pierce as new members of the Board of Trustees.

We have had a number of lectures and an exhibit in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society's founding in 1966. It has been an exciting Society year and I expect many more in the future

Allen Cressy

## ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

## BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: [info@bethelhistorical.org](mailto:info@bethelhistorical.org)





*Society Executive Director Stan Howe presents the 2006 Noll Volunteer Service Award to Colwyn Haskell (left) at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in September*

Studies program at the University of Southern Maine (David Jones), the hosting of the Yankee Brass Band for a concert in July and an exhibit on the political career of William S. Cohen, the sponsorship of a popular course on Maine and the Civil War and a house tour focusing on nine Bethel homes, the opening of a special exhibit on the 40 anniversary of the Society's founding, and a successful series of annual special events, many of them honoring the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding in 1966.

Following this, the proposed new bylaws were introduced for consideration. Despite opposition from three members, they were adopted by a large majority. This document represented hours of work by a committee consisting of Grace McKivergan, William Andrews, Walter Hatch, Allen Cressy and Stan Howe. Using models from a number of respected Maine institutions as well as one recommended by the American Association of Museums, the committee merged the former constitution and bylaws into one document that was also reviewed by life member, Attorney Michael J. O'Donnell.

After the vote on the new bylaws, Executive Director Stanley R. Howe presented the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award. The Award honors each year an outstanding volunteer who embodies the dedicated spirit of service to the organization so ably represented by Mrs. Noll. In his presentation remarks, Director Howe included the following: "This year we are honoring Judy Haskell, who so perfectly embodied her close friend Marjorie Noll's dedication to this organization by helping in numerous ways and in so many of its functions be it guiding in the museum, helping with special events, serving on committees (including chairing the Noll Committee for years) and as Society Secretary and Trustee, and generally always being there wherever needed. She was above all the consummate volunteer and I am pleased and honored to present this award to one so very deserving. As everyone here knows, Judy died last year, so part of the pleasure in presenting this award has been lost with her death. Here to accept the award in her absence is her husband, Colwyn, who has his own record of volunteer service, particularly for the hours he has spent plastering and repairing the exhibit gallery walls in the Robinson House. He was also very supportive of Judy's volunteer activities at the Society and sometimes

helped with her endeavors on its behalf. So it is entirely fitting that this year's award be a joint one. It is my great pleasure to present this 2006 Award to Judy and Colwyn Haskell."

The president next presented six honorary memberships to the following: Rebecca P. Kendall, longtime member of the Investment Committee, a former trustee and Society treasurer, active in recent years as a volunteer in the museum shop and helping with mailings, Rachel MacKay, active as a museum shop volunteer and in the work of the Special Projects Committee, Jean Owen, a longtime member of the Membership Committee, museum shop volunteer and often a helper with Society mailings, Dexter and Jan Stowell. Dexter has been active for many years as a member and chair of the Long Range and Strategic Planning Committee, Jan has long been volunteer coordinator for tours and New Year's Bethel as well as a museum shop volunteer, Janet Vogt, a "stalwart" of the flower show at Sudbury Canada Days and long a volunteer on the Garden and Grounds Committee. To be eligible for this category of membership, a member must be at least seventy-five and have an outstanding record of service to the organization. It is the Society's highest membership award.

Following these presentations, Dean Walker, chairman of the Nominating Committee, which also consisted this year of Arlene Lowell and Dorothy Bartlett, presented the following report: President: Allen Cressy, Vice President, Susan Herlihy, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees: Sarah Tucker, Treasurer: Walter Hatch, Trustee for three years: Sylvia Clanton, Trustee for two years: Bruce Pierce. The slate was elected without dissent.

President Cressy thanked retiring trustee and treasurer, Dorothy Bartlett and Grace McKivergan, respectively, for their dedicated service over the past several years.

This was followed by nomination from the floor for the two members of the Nominating Committee elected from the general membership. Those elected were Dean Walker and Arlene Lowell.

There being no further committee reports, the meeting was adjourned.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Society Director Howe presented a slide show providing views of the range of Society activities over the past forty years with a bit of humor and a few colorful stories. ■



*Society President Allen Cressy (left) presents honorary membership certificates to Jan and Dexter Stowell at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in September*

## WESTERN MAINE SAINTS

### A Bethel Family (Frost)

By Jayne W. Fife, with Roselyn Kirk

Mary Ann Frost Stearns was a small determined woman, a widow with one child, when she married LDS Apostle Parley Parker Pratt, a widower, in Kirkland, Ohio in 1837. That decision resulted in her bearing their first child, Nathan, in a one room log cabin near Far West, Missouri and being abandoned when Parley was arrested, charged with murder and sentenced to death. When reprieved, he was held in the Richmond, Missouri jail for eight months. During that period, Mary Ann spent time with him in jail; the exact duration of incarceration is unclear. There she cared for Parley and her two children. When she left, she carried Parley's writings out in her clothing thereby risking her life so they could be published.

With Parley still in jail, she was forced to leave Far West on penalty of death. Having no means of transportation, a kind Church member took her to Quincy, Illinois. When they reached a swollen creek that ran parallel to the Mississippi River, she got out of the carriage to lighten the load. Crossing the narrow bridge, she looked back to see her daughter Mary Ann's bonnet bobbing in the water. By a miracle, the child's life was saved.

Later, as one of the last to leave Nauvoo, Illinois, as the Saints were once again driven from their homes, farms and sacred temple, she endured abandoning the graves of two small children, Nathan and Susan. Parley had already reached Council Bluffs, Iowa, with the main body of the Saints including his now six other wives and several babies.

Making the decision to leave Parley and relying on her own resources to support her own children, she remained true to the promises she made in the spring of 1835 when she joined the Church of Latter-day Saints in western Maine. She wrote, "I was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ, being converted to the truthfulness of its doctrines by the first sermon I heard. And I said in my heart if there are only three who had to endure, I have everfelt the same, my heart has never swerved from that resolve."

Mary Ann was born in Groton, Caledonia, Vermont, to Aaron and Susan Gray Bennett Frost on 14 January 1809. Her brother Orange Clark and sister Naomi were also born in Groton, respectively on 23 February 1813 and 25 January 1814. Aaron and Susan's first child, Lidania, was born on 10 October 1802 at Berwick, where Aaron's parents lived. The next three children, Aaron (10 March 1804, died 15 October 1804), David Milton (28 July 1805) and Lucretia Bucknam (24 November 1806) were born in North Yarmouth, where Susan's parents lived. The last four children were born in Bethel: Olive Gray on 24 July 1816, Sophronia Gray on 3 October 1818, Nehemiah on 4 March 1821, and Huldah Alvina in 1825.

Aaron was a descendant of George Frost, originally from Binstead, Hampshire, England, who came to Winter Harbor/Biddeford Pool near the mouth of the Saco River between 1623 and 1629. George's son John was killed during the early stages of the Indian War and his other son, William,



*Mary Ann Frost Stearns Pratt. Photo courtesy of Jayne Fife*

who owned land in Saco, fled with his family to Salem, Massachusetts, where he lived until 1679, when he purchased land in Wells and returned. On 7 May 1690, William and his brother-in-law, James Littlefield, were killed by Indians, who carried away William's son, Nathaniel.

Three succeeding generations of George Frost's family lived in Berwick, Maine, including great, great, great grandsons, Moses and Eliot, who served in the Revolutionary War. After the War, six of Moses' children moved to Sudbury Canada (later known as Bethel): Moses, Thomas, Dominicus, Nathaniel, Lydia, and eventually Aaron.

Mary Ann often told her children about her early life. One story they loved to hear was called, "Needles and Pins." When she was a child, she had to walk a mile and a half every day to an Androscoggin River crossing where workmen waited to row a group of children across the river to a little schoolhouse. After school, the children waited until the men returned from work to row them back. While waiting, they often played in the boat. Sometimes, they let it out into the river as far as the rope would allow and then pulled it back to shore. Once, when it struck the shore very hard, Mary Ann was knocked into the deep water. The other children ran



screaming for the workmen. When they arrived, Mary Ann, who had struggled valiantly until overcome, was rescued and quickly rolled in the grass as water drained out of her ears, nose and mouth. She was carried to a nearby house, wrapped in a warm blanket and put to bed. When she finally opened her eyes, she said, "Oh, I feel so funny, just like needles and pins poking all over me."

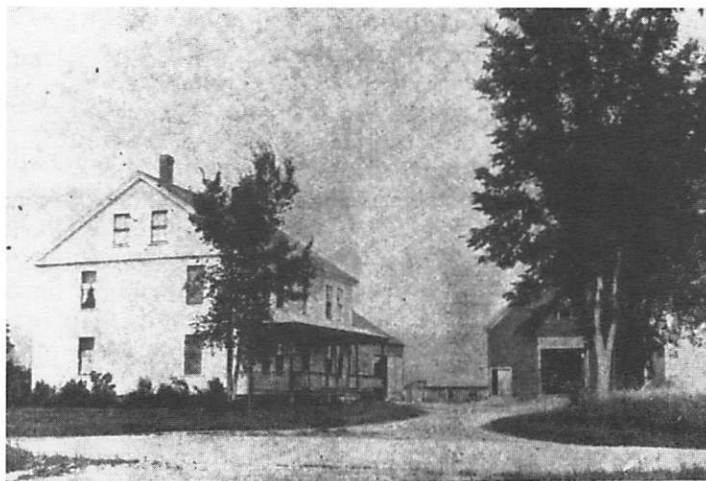
As Mary Ann grew older, she became an expert in spinning, dyeing and weaving fabric, knitting and sewing clothing. When she was twenty three, she married Nathan Stearns, son of Charles and Thankful Bartlett Stearns. A descendant wrote that Mary Ann "fell in love with young Nathan Stearns who courted her for four years, beating a path through the woods to come every Sunday to see her. She had knitted enough socks to last a lifetime by the time they were married," which was on 1 April 1832, Nathan's twenty-third birthday.

In an autobiography written by Nathan and Mary Ann's only child, in 1896, she related, "My father, a well-beloved son was the chosen one to inherit the paternal homestead and to nurture and comfort the declining years of his aged parents." Accordingly, the newlyweds settled into the Mayville home and farm where Charles and Thankful Stearns had raised their nine children, and that is where their only child was born on 6 April 1833. Continuing her remembrances, daughter Mary Ann wrote, "My father and mother were lovers in the true sense of the meaning and she often said that she never received a cross word from him or saw a cross look on his face when turned to her, but always a smile of love and approbation. But earthly happiness is fleeting and this happy couple knew not the change that was so soon to come and that their plans so well laid were never to be realized." Nathan died at age twenty-four, only one year and five months after they were married. Their baby was only four and half months old. Nathan had been working in the hay field on a sultry July day when he became ill with typhoid fever, then prevalent in the community. After being "blistered, cupped and bled" for four weeks, he died. Soon after the funeral, his wife and two sisters were stricken. For three weeks, Mary Ann lay unconscious and tiny Mary Ann "was taken by a kind neighbor, Mrs. Thaddeus Twitchell, and her daughters, Roxanna and Mary Elizabeth, to be weaned."

"After a few weeks, when I was taken to the bedside of my mother and she was asked if she knew whose baby it was, she shook her head and when asked to look again, she still could not think, but as her eye wandered down to the little dress she had fashioned in love and anticipation, the truth dawned upon her and she clasped me to her bosom with tears of motherly love and affection."

Continuing with the reminiscences, Mary Ann wrote, "With the return of memory came the great weight of sorrow that had come to my mother, and she mourned as one not to be comforted, but taking up the burden of life for my sake, she wandered wearily on-still clothed in garbs of deep mourning until two years had passed away, when the glorious fight of the Gospel burst forth to illumine the souls of all who would accept its glad message."

On 4 May 1835, twelve newly ordained LDS Apostles left



*The Charles Stearns homestead in the Mayville section of Bethel. The buildings were owned by Henry Enman when they were destroyed by fire on 6 June 1936.*

Kirkland, Ohio on a mission to New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine as well as Ontario, Canada. They spent the next five months traveling singly or in changing pairs instructing and bolstering existing branches and proselyting. They taught that Joseph Smith, Jr., through revelation had restored the Church as it had been at the time of Jesus Christ.

A typical day consisted of walking, hitching a ride in a wagon or taking a canal boat to a new village where, if possible, they made contact with a known member who could help find a meeting place for an evening's instruction. They usually stayed overnight and in the morning moved on to another village. According to Apostle Parley Pratt, they preached, exhorted, taught, organized, blessed the sick, baptized, confirmed and ordained.

In the latter part of the summer, Apostles Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, David W. Patten and Thomas B. Marsh spoke to a small group at Rumford Point before moving to Bethel where they held a conference. During this time, Mary Ann Frost Stearns and her mother Susan Gray Frost were baptized by Apostle Patten. Four other members of the family eventually became members. Mary Ann's daughter said one of the most appealing facets of the Gospel for her mother was the redemption of the dead, for she deeply mourned the death of her beloved Nathan and the thought of being reunited with him was consoling.

There is also a reference to Mary Ann in a biography of David W. Patten based on his journals: "While a conference was being held at Bethel, Maine, a young woman, Mary Ann Stearns, who had been troubled for five years with an extremely aggravated case of heart disease, sent for the Elders, and upon investigation asked for baptism. David, the mouth of the confirmation, as well as in administering to her afterward for her health, made her a promise that she would be entirely restored to perfect health and soundness. She afterward became the wife of Apostle Parley P. Pratt and endured all the hardships through which the Saints were called to pass, but from that time till the time of her death in 1891, at the age of eighty-two years, she never again

complained of heart trouble."

In August 1836, six apostles, including Brigham Young, Lyman Johnson and William McClellin came through Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. They held conferences in Andover West Surplus (Newry) and Bethel. They were in the area for more than a week and strongly encouraged members to gather with the main body of the Church in Kirkland, Ohio and Far West, Missouri. In response, on 16 August 1836, David Sessions took Mary Ann and her three year old daughter to Portland in the middle of the night in a carriage because she was fearful of being prevented from leaving with other local converts who were "gathering" in Kirkland. She gave up the dowry left to her daughter by Nathan because the child's guardian refused to let her "take it to the Mormons." The next day, she joined other Maine converts and missionaries on the boat to Boston, where more members had gathered to journey to Ohio.

Kirkland was very crowded with new members. The growth was amazing and had started to cause problems with non-members as well as members. During the next eight months, Mary Ann and her daughter boarded with five different families, including those of Brigham Young and Hyrum Smith. Hyrum was Joseph Smith's brother. One woman, who lived with her husband temporarily in the same tiny home as Mary Ann, wrote in her diary following about Mary Ann: "I admired her very much, thought her an amiable, interesting woman." That home, belonging to Sabre Granger, was one room with a dirt cellar, small pantry and closet, as well as an outdoor stove room. Mary Ann later wrote, "During this time my mother, at one of the prayer meetings in the temple received her patriarchal blessing and I received my childhood blessing into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Finally, they moved into a portion of the home vacated by Hyrum and his family when their new home was built. The Stearns then had their own private space. Several stories about Mary Ann survive from this time as later recorded by her daughter. Young Mary Ann was taught her ABC's by her mother cutting out the letters and pasting them around the fireplace. Her mother also taught her, at three, how to knit. She later recorded, "I had a pair of stockings nearly done and mother wanted me to finish them by my fourth birthday. I knit very tight and mother had knit around every other time to loosen up the stitches, but I had them done in time, and was very glad for a number reasons-it is quite a task for a little active girl to sit down and knit very long at a time, and it was a great relief to have the job off my hands, as well as a pleasure to see what I had done."

Nathan Stearns had been an Ensign in the Maine militia. Mary Ann kept his blue broadcloth uniform with bright brass buttons. She often showed it to her daughter while talking about him. One day a friend told her that a Church member had been called on a mission, but was hindered by having no suitable clothing. At first she refused even to consider parting with Nathan's clothing, but her conscience would not allow her to withhold something she had that was needed by the Church. She replaced the military buttons on the jacket with regular ones and in tears gave the uniform to the missionary.

Another story reflects her character. Taking snuff was common in those days. Mary Ann was in the habit of taking a pinch at dinner from a pretty snuff box given her by her husband, Nathan. After being taught the Word of Wisdom and admonished in her Patriarchal Blessing to keep it, she placed the snuff box on the fireplace mantle and sat down to read the *Book of Mormon* until all desire had passed.

Young Mary Ann recorded other aspects of their life in Kirkland: "During this time we were constant attendants at meetings in the temple, and I can especially remember the fast-meetings, and can recall at this day the great power and good spirit that were experienced on those occasions-and it was generally known that Father Joseph Smith (Sr.), the Patriarch, would not break his fast and partake of food for that length of time, and that he must surely be like Abraham, the faithful that mother had told me so often about." She continued with her recollections: "I remember partaking of the Sacrament of bread and wine in the Kirkland Temple, and when I would have liked more of the wine, mother explained to me that it was in memory of the blood of our Savior when he was upon the cross. After that I was always satisfied to partake of the proper quantity-and with reverence in my heart."

Then Mary Ann's life changed radically. On 9 May 1837, six weeks after the death of his wife Thankful Halsey Pratt, Apostle Parley Parker Pratt, age 30, married Mary Ann Frost Stearns, age 28, in Hyrum Smith's home. They were married by Frederick G. Williams, first counselor to Joseph Smith. Mary Ann was described as "very tiny and very pretty." Another description recorded at that time described her as an "affectionate, well-educated, refined and ambitious woman, equal to any and every occasion." Little Mary Ann, now 4, was dressed in her newly made French lawn dress with tiny, blue flowers that matched her mother's dress. They moved into Parley's small home, a block from the new temple, for six weeks.

On 29 May, Parley and four other Church leaders were summoned to a Church Court to answer charges that they had made false accusations against Joseph Smith. These charges revolved around the failure of a Church organized bank, the Kirkland Safety Society and inflated Kirkland property prices. No judgments were made, and after reconsidering, Parley went to Joseph and begged for forgiveness, which was immediately granted. A month later, Parley, his new wife and daughter, left Kirkland to introduce the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of New York City.

(to be continued in the next issue)

### New Life Members

Timothy and Iris Roberts, Jefferson City, MO  
Joseph and Robbie Deitch, Weston, MA  
Christopher J. Hovey, Falmouth  
Richard A. Manion, Groveton, GA  
Linda B. Folkers, Freeport  
Jay and Arline Hoar, Temple  
Rose Mary McLean, Bryant Pond  
Michael and Judith Bowden Coletta, Woonsocket, RI

**BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

*Prepared by:*  
**SESSIONS & ASSOCIATES, CPAS, PA**  
***Certified Public Accountants***  
***Bethel, Maine***



**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**NOTE 1: Significant Accounting Policies**

**Organization's activities:**

The Organization is a society which promotes the preservation of the history of Bethel, Maine. The Society's primary revenues are donations, dues, admission fees, retail sales, and fees from special events. Other sources of revenue include grants and earnings on investments.

**Basis of presentation:**

In 1996, the Organization elected to adopt Statement of Financial Accounting Standards SFAS No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations*. Under SFAS No. 117, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: Unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted assets, and permanently restricted net assets. In addition, the Organization is required to present a statement of cash flows.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Net assets and revenues, expenses, gains, and losses are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted net assets - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

Temporarily restricted net assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that may or will be met, either by actions of the Organization and/or the passage of time.

Permanently restricted net assets - Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the Organization. Generally, the donors of these assets permit the Organization to use all or part of the income earned on any related investments for general or specific purposes.

**Expiration of donor-imposed restrictions:**

The expiration of a donor-imposed restriction on a contribution or on endowment income is recognized in the period in which the restriction expires and at that time the related resources are reclassified to unrestricted net assets. A restriction expires when the stipulated time has elapsed, when the stipulated purpose for which the resource was restricted has been fulfilled, or both.

**Collections:**

The Society does not capitalize its collections. The collections consist of artifacts of historical significance and art objects which are held for educational, research, and custodial purposes. The Organization protects, cares for, preserves and keeps its collections unencumbered, subject to a policy that requires proceeds from their sales to be used to acquire other items for collections.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**NOTE 2: Contributions Receivable**

Included in contributions receivable are the following unconditional promises to give:

	2005	2004
Contributions receivable	60,000	\$60,000
Less: Unamortized discount (rate of 4% in 2005)	(25,380)	(27,032)
	<u>\$34,620</u>	<u>\$32,968</u>

The entire amount is due in 2019 and is considered collectible.

**NOTE 3: Land, Building and Equipment**

	Years	Cost	
		2005	2004
Land and building	37-40	\$578,621	\$578,621
Improvements	15-40	153,661	153,661
Equipment	10-May	60,469	58,485
		<u>\$792,751</u>	<u>\$790,767</u>

**NOTE 4: Investments - Marketable Securities**

Investments in securities are recorded at their fair values, which are based on quoted market prices for individual debt and marketable securities and published unit values for mutual funds. Purchased securities are recorded at cost as of their trade dates, donated securities are recorded at their market. Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period the first received. Contributions of donated services that create or enhance non-financial assets or at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

	2005		2004	
	Cost	Market Value	Cost	Market Value
Stocks	\$165,335	\$227,342	\$208,512	\$283,946
Mutual funds	148,462	163,839	133,689	147,889
Corporate bonds	155,000	150,211	130,000	129,570
Government bonds	70,285	69,920	70,285	70,987
Total marketable securities	<u>\$539,082</u>	<u>\$611,312</u>	<u>\$540,486</u>	<u>\$632,392</u>

Market value exceeds cost by \$72,230 and \$91,906 at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**NOTE 1: Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Cash:**

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with a maturity date of three months or less to be cash or cash equivalents.

**Inventories:**

Inventories are stated at lower of cost or market value, with cost generally determined on the first-in, first-out method.

**Land, building and equipment:**

Purchases of property are capitalized at cost. Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Minor additions and replacements and routine repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

**Contributions:**

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give, are recorded as made. All contributions are available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Unconditional promises to give, due in the next year, are recorded at their net realizable value. Unconditional promises to give, due in subsequent years, are reported at the present value of their net realizable value, using risk-free interest rates applicable to the years in which the promises are to be received.

**In-kind contributions:**

Contributions of donated non-cash assets are recorded at their fair values in the period received. Contributions of donated services that create or enhance non-financial assets or that require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically be purchased if not provide by donation, are recorded at their fair values in the period received.

**Advertising:**

The Organization uses advertising to promote its programs among the public it serves. Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising was \$227 and \$405 for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

**Income Taxes:**

No provision for income taxes has been made due to the Organization's tax exempt status under IRC Section 501(c)(3).

**Use of estimates:**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

**Bethel Historical Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**NOTE 5: Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Net Assets**

Temporarily restricted and permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2005 and 2004 were available for the following purposes:

	2005	2004
Capital campaign	\$111,215	\$109,854
Mollycckett world exhibit	517	504
Scholarships	574	453
Austin Twitchell collection/Moses Mason House	22,595	14,288
Miscellaneous preservation programs	-	1,053
Special events	<u>3,867</u>	<u>3,181</u>
	<u>\$138,768</u>	<u>\$129,333</u>

Permanently restricted net assets are as follows:

	2005	2004
Collections and preservation of buildings	\$122,378	\$122,378
Special events	20,000	20,000
Plants for buildings and grounds	4,860	4,860
Scholarships	4,275	4,275
Books and genealogical materials	2,560	2,560
Noll award	500	500
	<u>\$154,573</u>	<u>\$154,573</u>

**NOTE 6: Release from Restrictions**

Program restrictions were satisfied during the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 by incurring expenses for the restricted purposes specified by the donors as follows:

	2005	2004
Capital campaign	\$11,577	\$14,075
Austin Twitchell collection/Moses Mason House	-	3,810
Mollycckett world exhibit	-	1,057
Special events	1,070	900
Barn again exhibit	1,001	-
Ham/Orino fund exhibit cases	<u>2,048</u>	-
	<u>\$15,696</u>	<u>\$19,842</u>

**NOTE 7: Fundraising Expenses**

Total fundraising expenses were \$7,995 and \$8,002 for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

**Sessions & Associates, CPAs, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountants**



# Photo Gallery



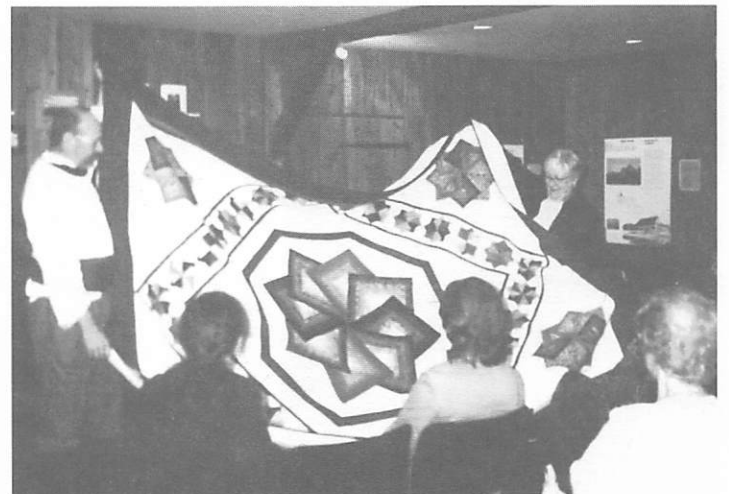
*Becky Kendall, Rachel MacKay, and Jane Vogt were presented Honorary Membership Certificates during the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in September*



*Geoff Colby of the Vermont Sons of the American Revolution marches with Maine Society President, Sons of the American Revolution, Charles McGillicuddy in front of the Dr. Moses Mason House on their way to the Sons' meeting place, September 2006*



*Presenting the colors at the opening of the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution meeting held at the Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room, September 2006*



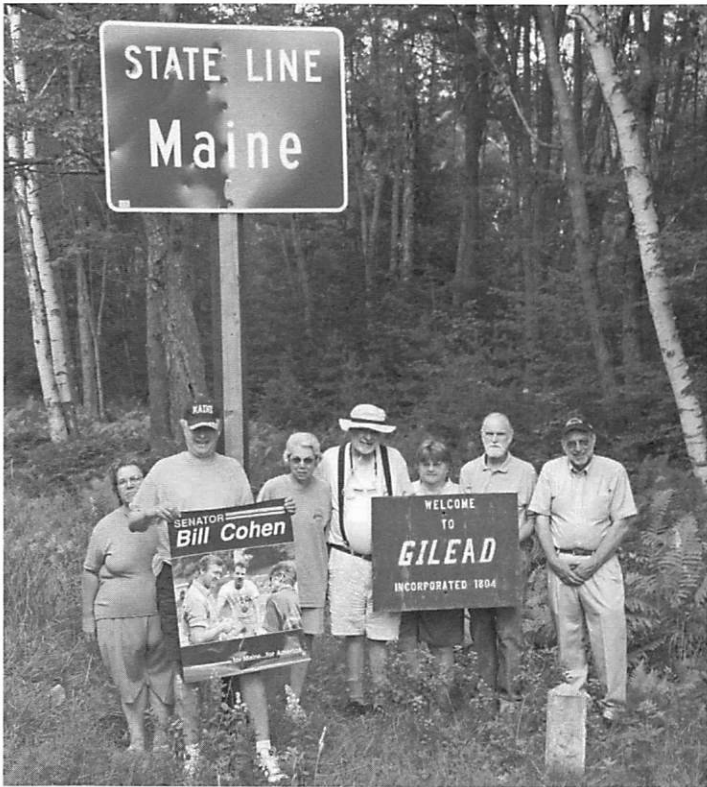
*Life member Steve Seames (left) assists Society Trustee June Abbott with quilts during her presentation to the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution members and spouses, September 2006*



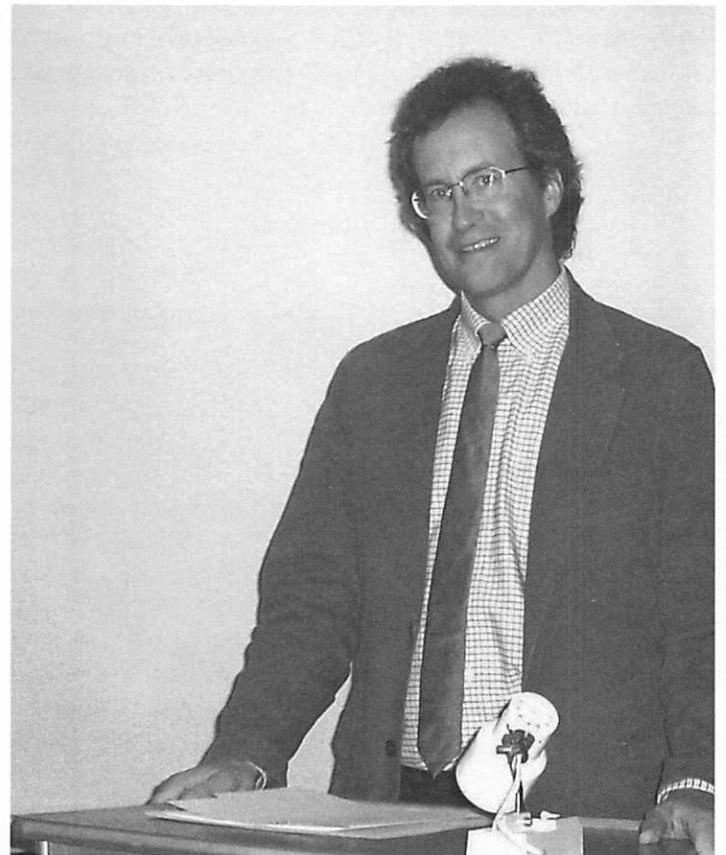
*Deborah Andrews, Danna Nickerson and William Andrews at the July 25 opening of the exhibit "Cohen, Congress, and Controversy: Rediscovering Civics in the Archives" at the Society's Robinson House.*



*Bowdoin College Government Professor Christian P. Potholm spoke on his role as an adviser to William S. Cohen during his first campaign for the United States House of Representatives in 1972 at the opening of the Cohen exhibit on July 25. Bethel was the first site for the exhibit designed to follow the route Cohen took on his famous walk from Gilead to Fort Kent that helped him win a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives. Cohen later served as U.S. Senator from Maine and U.S. Defense Secretary for President Clinton.*



*On July 25, members of the Gilead and Bethel historical societies, along with Christian Potholm of Bowdoin College, gathered at the state line in Gilead where William S. Cohen began his walk across the Second District of Maine in 1972. From left to right are Bev Corriveau, Christian Potholm, Judy Bishop, Bob Bishop, Lin Chapman, Hugh Chapman and Stan Howe.*



*Kent Ryden, Director of American and New England Studies, University of Southern Maine, spoke on "Landscapes and Figures: Nature and Culture in New England" as part of the lecture series made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council honoring the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1966.*

## Diary of William S. Hastings

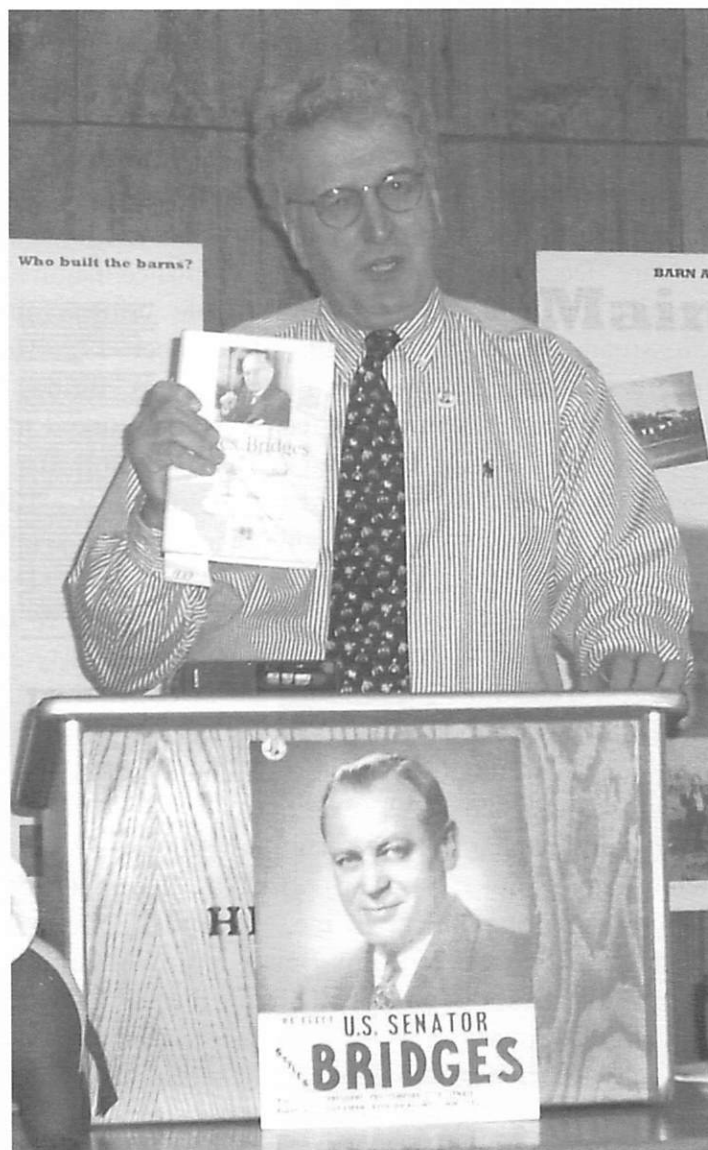
(continued from the last issue)



1944 November 1, Rain! Round home.

November 2, Clear & cool. 10 hrs. for Ernest Bisbee in L 1 R 1, Albany. November 3, Rain. Plowed and put up spuds. November 4, Clear & cold. 10 hrs. in Peru for R. F. Trust Co. 1 1/2 " snow in high country. O. E. S. in eve. Past Matrons & P.P. night. November 5, Clear & cold. 10 hrs. finished in Peru. November 6, Showers. Made out report on Riley-Newry line for Court. Norway in p.m. Car greased and oiled & got new "B" book. November 7, Clear & cool. 3 hrs. cruising lot for B. W. Kimball & finished. 4 hrs. for E. Bisbee in L1R1, Albany. Spotting lines. November 8, Showery. Put on new tail pipe on car. Hauled load furnace wood. Greenwood in p.m. November 9, Clear & cool. 10 hrs. for John Martin in L53-55, Third Div. Rumford. November 10, Finished John Martin's job. \$17 Paid. Bought \$16.55 worth of winter clothes. Breeches, 4 shirts, 4 suits of underwear, 1 pr. gloves. November 11, Clear & cool. Ruth's birthday. 9 hrs. for Ed Mann in L5 R3 Bethel. November 12, Cloudy. 9 hrs. for J. B. Chapman in Newry on Gorman place. 1 1/2 in. snow during night. November 13, Cloudy. Squalls. 6 hrs. for Ed Mann in L5 R3, Bethel. November 14, Clear, windy & cold. 9 hrs. Newry & finished. . \$18 paid. Chimney fire in eve. November 15, Clear & cold. Worked in cellar & on water works. 3 hrs. map of Hartford. November 16, Clear & warm. 9 hrs. & finished on L5 R3 for Ed Mann. \$4 for John. Bob sick in bed. November 17, Clear & warm. Snow is nearly gone. South Paris. 4 hrs. in Registry. 5 hrs. on Elmer O. Millet lot. Paid. November 18, Cloudy, warm. Tried Coolidge's horse beside Chub. No sale. They won't work together. Hauled wood. November 19, Clear & warm. 4 hrs. for Asa Howard & E. C. Park in L 47 Ranges 8 & 9, Bethel. \$4 pd. Laid up wall on culvert and hauled wood. November 20, Cloudy, warm. Rain. Made an iron pail rack & shelf for milk room. Plowed 3 1/2 A in p.m. Blackout in eve. & watched for planes until 1 a.m. Quite a busy day. November 21, Light snow. Took calf to Rumford. Saw Paul Thurston about Peru job. November 22, Cold & clear. Windy. Round home. November 23, Clear & cold. 7 hrs. in Lot 10, Fryeburg Acad. Grant, Stoneham, for Ida Titus, \$7 pd. Back is out badly. November 24, Cloudy, cold. Rain p.m. 5 hrs. for Frank M. Brown in Oxford. 1 hr. research for Mrs. Lutick. November 25, Rain. 4 hrs. repairing doors and water fountains at schoolhouse. Norway in p.m. for treatment. November 26, Rain. Put up 75 bu. spuds. Thanksgiving dinner at home. Slept most of p.m.

Back is some better. November 27, Snow, 4 in. 5 hrs. in Peru for R.F.Trust Co. Found 2 corners of Winthrop Tract on Woodstock line. Hard day. November 28, Blow! Round home. Back is bad. November 29, Clouding & snow. 3 hrs. on Hartford map. Changed tire. Fixed Dutton's lights. November 30, Cloudy. 9 hrs. in Andover West Surplus for A. J. Carlisle. \$9 pd. December 1, Cloudy. Bethel to turn in my extra tires. Installed as Senior Warden. Snow night & then Rain. December 2, Rainy & cloudy. Put up spuds. O.E.S. meeting in the evening. December 3, Cold, cloudy & windy. 9 hrs. for Adam Patrick in Rumford L 12-13 East



*James J. Kiepper, biographer of U.S. Senator Styles Bridges, spoke on the life and career of this Maine-born, longtime U.S. Senator from New Hampshire at the October lecture in the Dr. Moses Moses House Meeting Room. His appearance was made possible in part by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council in honor the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1966. Professor Kiepper also signed copies of his book for those wishing autographed editions.*



of Ellis River.\$9 paid. Masonic practice meeting. December 4, Cold & cloudy. Went to Auburn to see Wheeler maps. Brought 29 home with me. Norway for treatment. December 5, Cold & cloudy, squally. Round home. P.M. Bethel & turned in 3 tires. December 6, Cold & windy. Hauled wood with new team. They are rank. Sawed wood for John and us. December 7, Clear & cool. 9 hrs. for Roy Millett in L 4-5 R7. P.A. Grant Greenwood. December 8, Clear & cool. 5 hrs. in Greenwood & finished. \$12 paid. December 9, Clear & cool. 10 hrs. in L 89 [2] & L111[3], Rumford for Mrs. Lutick. December 10, Clear & warm. 10 hrs. & finished in Rumford . \$20 paid. Mason meeting. December 11, Cloudy. Put up spuds all day in my cellar. December 12, Light snow. Bob hauled 100 bu. to Berlin. I exercised team, filed saws, fixed bed, etc. December 13, Cloudy. Worked all day on a sled. December 14, Clear & cold & windy. 10 hrs. for Frank M. Brown in Oxford. \$4 for John. December 15, Cloudy. Put up spuds & hauled manure. December 16, Clear & cold. Finished manure, boarded up barn cellar. Built 2 pole bridges on Crossroad. Bob in Portland. December 17, -10 [degrees]. Cold & windy! Put up spuds all day. December 18, 6 [degrees]. Clear & cold. Worked in Bean swamp. Swamped a main road above camp. Ban on all gas for "A-B-C" cards. December 19, -10 [degrees]. Cold & windy. Round home, trying to keep warm. Highest for day -5 [degrees]. December 20, -18 [degrees]. Clear & cold. Got Xmas tree. Ruth & I walked to store. Worked on maps. Highest for day 5 [degrees]. December 21, -12 [degrees]. Cold & windy. Cut a little wood on Cross Road. December 22, -5 [degrees]. Warming up. Directors meeting in So. Paris. December 23, Cloudy & warm. Cut wood in Bean swamp. December 24, Bethel in a.m. Bought W. H. Jenne [survey] notes. Sawed wood in p.m. December 25, Cloudy & warm. Christmas tree, etc. Ruth's folks up. December 26, Clear & warm. Bob went to Portland. I surveyed 3 hrs. for Ben Kimball. December 27, Clouds, cold. Looked over B.S. Bank lot in L 9 & 10 R 6. P.M. at home. December 28, Cloudy, light snow. All day on Mason land. Norway with Herman Mason, \$5. December 29, Clouding. 4 hrs. on Edwards land L 10 R3, P.A. Grant Greenwood. 1 hr. on Russell lot, Bethel for P.H. Chadbourne. December 30, Snow & hail. To Bethel with 15 bu. spuds. Awful hard wheeling. December 31, Clearing. Shoveled out in a.m. Broke roads in Bean swamp in p.m. About 2 ft. snow in open growth.

(to be continued in the next issue)



### **Member Profile:** **Carolyn C. MacDormand**

Carolyn C. "Tammy" MacDormand, daughter of Franklin and Rosalind Rowe Chapman, was born in Lewiston and attended Bethel schools, graduating from Gould Academy in 1961. In 1965, she graduated from Nasson College and became a social worker based in Lewiston, and later in New Bedford, MA and Manchester, NH. She married Allister MacDormand in 1974 and is the stepmother of two children and has two stepgrandchildren. Due to her long paternal family connection with Gilead, she is a member of the Gilead Historical Society and has been a member of the Bethel Historical Society since 1978. She has also been very active on the Board of Directors of Woodland Cemetery with its Fund Raising Committee. A direct descendant of Eleazer Twitchell, one of the earliest settlers of what became Bethel, she has been a museum shop volunteer at the Society for several years. Her hobbies include camping, gardening and reading.

### **In Memoriam**

- Died, 4 April 2006, Wayne Gilman, Middletown, CT, Life Member
- Died, 26 September 2006, Frances Lane Dunn, Damariscotta, Life Member
- Died, 26 September 2006, Ethel Mann, South Yarmouth, MA, Sustaining Member
- Died, 19 October 2006, Elizabeth Lord, Bethel, Life Member
- Died, 9 November 2006, Lillian Rose, Portsmouth, NH, Senior Member
- Died, 19 November 2006, John Kendall Brown, Bethel, Life Member

## Book Note

*Mount Chocorua: A Guide and History.* By Steven D. Smith. (Littleton, NH: Bondcliff Books, 2006. Pp.154. Paper. \$14.95.)

This book claims to be the first guidebook devoted to one of New Hampshire's most beloved peaks. Thousands of hikers scale its rocky surface annually and numerous photographers capture its character with views that often include the placid waters of adjoining Lake Chocorua. Among the features of this book are details on the geography of the mountain, its natural history, and lore. Also included are guides to summit views, trail routes, and its rich history. A useful bibliography is found at the end of the book.

SRH

For ordering information, please see page 12.

## Editor's Corner

With this issue, we begin another series of articles on a Mormon migration which had its origins in western Maine and eventually ended in Salt Lake City, Utah. These articles have been most interesting for many readers and we are pleased to present more on a subject that has been largely ignored until recently.

The fortieth anniversary of the Society has been a time of reflection and celebration. Our programming this year reflected this theme and made for a good point of departure as the organization moves forward to new challenges and achievements.

SRH

### Bethel Courier, July 27, 1860:

"We are beginning to hear the clunk of the trowel on the new brick building in process of erection by R.A. Chapman, Esq. It is to be three stories in height and made fire proof. A portion of the old building that stood where the new one is erected has been moved down Main Street, a few rods, and enlarged."

## SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

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Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to regularly scheduled tours of the period house museum
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*, and e-news announcements
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

\_\_\_\_ Student (individual under 18 years) - \$3  
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 \_\_\_\_ Patron (individual) - \$30  
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 \_\_\_\_ Life 55 and under (individual) - \$200  
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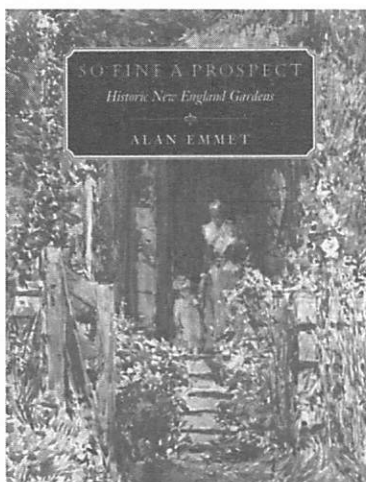
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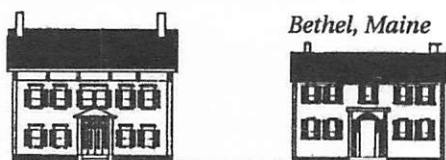
By Alan Emmet

Beautifully illustrated with period photos and plans—as well as superb modern images in color—this impressive study of sixteen historic gardens that graced New England's towns and countryside also delves deeply into who built these gardens and why. Drawing from diaries, correspondence, historical records, sketch maps, and paintings, the author treats the garden as an art form and closely examines its evolution from the utilitarian to the ornate. This book will appeal to anyone interested in historic gardens, from grand estates to suburban plots. 256 pp., softcover. \$19.95

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees for *Media Mail/Parcel Post*: under \$10 = \$3; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$4; \$20 to \$30 = \$5; over \$30 = \$6. For *Priority* shipping, please double these amounts.

**\*For a list of additional items available from the Museum hop, please visit our web site at [www.bethelhistorical.org](http://www.bethelhistorical.org)**

## BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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